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Agenda item 173

Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Isaias **Medina** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly" was included in the draft agenda of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly at the request of France.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 13th and 33rd meetings, on 11 October and 11 November 2016. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 9 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/71/232).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/71/L.7

5. At the 13th meeting, on 11 October, the representative of France, on behalf of Albania, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Madagascar, Morocco, the Netherlands, Romania, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Observer status for the International

[1] A/C.6/71/SR.13 and A/C.6/71/SR.33.

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Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly" (A/C.6/71/L.7). Subsequently, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Kenya, Luxembourg and Palau joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 33rd meeting, on 11 November, the representative of France, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the draft resolution by adding four preambular paragraphs, reading:

"*Reaffirming* its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994,

"*Considering* the unique importance of the International Chamber of Commerce, created in 1919, due to its historical specificities and its special role and authority as a representative of the business community in more than 120 countries,

"*Stressing* the need, frequently noted by the United Nations, to give greater opportunities to the business community to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization,

"*Emphasizing* that the present resolution does not change the criteria established in decision 49/426".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/71/L.7, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Russian Federation made statements in explanation of their positions.

III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

9. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994,

Considering the unique importance of the International Chamber of Commerce, created in 1919, due to its historical specificities and its special role and authority as a representative of the business community in more than 120 countries,

Stressing the need, frequently noted by the United Nations, to give greater opportunities to the business community to contribute to the realization of the goals and programmes of the Organization,

Emphasizing that the present resolution does not change the criteria established in decision 49/426,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Chamber of Commerce,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Chamber of Commerce to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the action necessary to implement the present resolution.